Mr. Bensley :—What the Select Committee have done is to omit the last sentence of section 3 of the original Bill which related merely to the presumption from mere presence in a gaming house. They observe :—'The mere presence in a gaming house, during a game, should not *per se* raise the presumption that the person present was there for the purpose of gaming. * * We think that the omission of this sentence will not prevent a Court from drawing any inference it deems proper from the presence of the person in a gaming house and *other circumstances* pointing to the conclusion that he was there for the purpose of gaming.'

Amendment withdrawn.

SECTION 6.

Mr. Rama Vurma :—I propose that the words between "or" in the 7th line and "entitled" in the 9th line be omitted. I am against any such concession. Even persons concerned in offences under the Regulation may be considered 'entitled.'

Mr. Prince :—The provision in the Bill aims at the protection of the innocent. Cases are easily conceivable where the discretionary power under the section will have to be exercised in view of peculiar circumstances of hardship.

Amendment withdrawn.

SECTION 10.

Mr. Thanu Pillai moved that the words "used in playing" in the 3rd line be omitted.

He said :—As it stands the expression 'used in playing &c.' seems merely to qualify and restrict the character of the instruments used. What is really intended is, no doubt, the extension of the benefit of section 9 to games falling under section 10. The small change I have now proposed renders this intention free from doubt.

Seconded by Mr. Bensley.

Carried.

SECTION 11.

Mr. Thanu Pillai :—I have to move another small amendment, which is purely verbal—that the words "not exceed his powers" be substituted for the words "be restrained within the limits of his jurisdiction."

Seconded by Mr. Bensley.

Carried.

SECTION 15.

Mr. Rama Vurma moved that the words "open to the general public" be inserted between the words "place" and "in" in the 2nd line.

After some discussion the amendment was withdrawn.

It was then resolved that the Bill be read again on a future day of which notice shall be given.

THE IRRIGATION BILL.

Mr. Thanu Pillai :—I beg to present the Select Committee's report on the Irrigation Bill but I would move that the consideration of the same and the Bill as amended by them be deferred till the next ordinary meeting. The measure is a novel and important one and it has not been before the public sufficiently long.

Mr. Prince seconded the motion.

Carried.

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